

OBAMA et al. -- 10/665,575  
Attorney Docket: 008312-0306030

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A paper sheet detection apparatus comprising:  
a conveying device which conveys a paper sheet along a conveying surface;  
a detection device which is provided opposite to the conveying surface and detects  
[[a]] the paper sheet conveyed by the conveying device;  
a guide device which is provided in at least [[the]] a paper sheet take-in side of the  
detection device and ~~formed with~~ includes a pair of guide members disposed opposite to each  
other at both side sides of the conveying surface, wherein one of the pair of guide members is  
fixed and the other guide member is movable relative to the one guide member;  
a nozzle which is provided in the each opposite surface of the pair of guide members;  
an energizing device which elastically energizes ~~one of the pair of other~~ guide  
~~members member~~ toward the other one guide member, and  
a gas supply device which generates a clearance between the pair of guide members  
by moving ~~one of the pair of other~~ guide members member against the energizing force of the  
energizing device, by supplying compressed gas to the pair of guide members and ejecting  
the gas from the nozzle between the pair of guide members.

10. (Currently amended) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9,  
wherein the guide device is provided in the paper sheet take-in side and a take-out side of the  
detection device.

11. (Withdrawn) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9, further  
comprising a plurality of grooves provided at a certain interval on the opposite surface of said  
pair of guide members in the paper sheet conveying direction and in the direction orthogonal  
to the conveying direction, and a plurality of nozzles provided at least in the parts surrounded  
by said plurality of grooves on the opposite surface of said pair of guide members.

12. (Withdrawn) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said

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plurality of nozzles are disposed like a column on the line parallel to the paper sheet conveying direction, and the interval between the outermost nozzle column is set wider than the width dimension of the paper sheet in the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction.

13. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~one of said pair of~~ the other guide ~~members~~ member consists of a plurality of divided guides divided vertically and horizontally along the paper sheet conveying direction and the direction orthogonal to the conveying direction; and each of the divided guides is provided movable, and has a nozzle to eject compressed gas.

14. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein one of said pair of guide members consists of a plurality of divided guides divided over the paper sheet conveying direction; each of the divided guide parts has a nozzle to eject compressed gas; the gas supply device controls the supply of ~~compress~~ compressed gas to said plurality of divided guide members by switching the pressure and flow rate to be different at a certain cycle, and moves a pressure fluctuation or a flow rate fluctuation of the compressed gas ejected from the nozzles of said plurality of divided guides along the paper sheet conveying direction.

15. (Withdrawn) The paper sheet detection apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the gas supply device generates a pressure fluctuation or a flow rate fluctuation of the compressed air blown out from the nozzle, according to the height or the flow rate increment and decrement of the pressure of the compressed gas supplied to the divided guides.

16.-23. (Canceled)